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Foreign Broadcast Information Service
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

2 April 1948

[redacted]
Chief, Mediterranean Bureau

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Dear [redacted]

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This is in reply to your letter of 1 March 1948. We had, as you surmised, noted the comments of the Free Greece Radio Station relative to our establishing a Mission on Cyprus as well as other publicity in this connection. I fail to understand your comment, "Although I realize that my comment may not be desired, and I would, therefore, appreciate it if you would forget that I made any if it is not desired." Obviously I am always anxious to have comments of Bureau Chiefs on matters of importance to this organization. Perhaps you can explain this further to me when I see you in Cairo.

I am anxious to visit Cairo and Cyprus and perhaps I will feel differently about the matter after I have done so. At the present time, however, I can see no possible way to avoid publicity in connection with our project and it is only in keeping with other events in the world that certain sources would charge us with militaristic domination, etc. I believe this is unavoidable.

Your understanding that the new Bureau is to be a civilian operation is correct. Your letter leaves me at a loss to understand how you arrived at a different conclusion. I shall also be glad to have you explain this to me. [redacted] is a civilian and the use of his title was for the sole purpose of facilitating negotiations with the British. If you feel that he has abused this privilege I shall be more than glad to have you tell me about it in greater detail.

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The decision as to who constructs this station is not left to FBIB. I suppose the fact that the Army Engineers are assisting us with the plans and construction also enters into the picture. This is unavoidable and whatever criticism we get as a result thereof must be accepted.

The State Department moved faster than I assumed they would on the establishment of a Vice Consulate on Cyprus. We will, of course,

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be extremely happy when the Consul is actually on Cyprus and regular courier service is available.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Cairo on or about April 21st.

Sincerely,

L. K. WHITE
Chief, FBIB

LKW/dt

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